

## Remarks

### Status of Claims (37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c))

Claims 1-24 were originally filed in the present application. During prosecution, claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15-17, and 24 were amended. Claims 1-24 are now pending.

### Reponse to Formal Matters

The Office Action mailed September 10, 2004 states that the application is in condition for allowance but for the following three formal matters:

1. The Office Action objects to claim 1 as unclear and requests deletion of the word "the" in the wherein clause. This objection was discussed during a telephone interview on August 16, 2004. Applicants have made the requested amendment.


2. The continuity data has been updated. The priority claim to U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/006,271 already is shown in item [60] on the face of the patent.

3. A supplemental declaration of the inventors is attached to this response.

Applicants have addressed each of the three formal matters in the Office Action. Applicants believe this application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,  
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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By:   
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Lisa M. Hemmendinger  
Registration No. 42,653

Customer No. 22907